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CDC HEALTH ALERT

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Update: Management of Human Remains

The following message is designed for wide dissemination among health, rescue, and mortuary workers, and all others who may come in contact with human remains in the New York City region.

MANAGEMENT OF HUMAN REMAINS

Mass fatality management may evoke strong emotions by responders and other medical personnel. Inaccurate information may promote rumors about disease outbreaks. It is important to remember that human remains from explosions and building collapses do not pose a risk of disease epidemics. However, responders should use standard precautions when handling human remains. Your priority is to maintain the dignity of the deceased and respect family wishes as well as religious and social customs.

If in doubt about what to do, call your State Health Department for further information or CDC at 770-488-7100.

Health Alert Network Command Center

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) protects people's health and safety by preventing and controlling diseases and injuries; enhances health decisions by providing credible information on critical health issues; and promotes healthy living through strong partnerships with local, national and international organizations.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES